



Express Mail AS. EV 316333980 US

#17Cw
1-31-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Barbara, Ellen, et al.

Application No.

09/903,284

Filed:

July 11, 2001

For:

METHOD AND SYSTEM

FOR ON-LINE PAYMENTS

Examiner:

Fults, Richard C.

Group Art Unit:

3628

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Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop RCE
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 13, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination and fee are being filed herewith.

The Final Office Action for this application was issued January 13, 2003, setting a three-month period for response which expired on April 13, 2003. On June 20, 2003, Applicants filed a Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 with a request for a three-month extension of time, extending the period for response to July 14, 2003. On July 14, 2003, Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal. An Appeal Brief was therefore due by September 14, 2003, absent an extension of time. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith in lieu of an Appeal Brief, together with a request for a four-month extension of time to January 14, 2004. Accordingly, this application is pending today, and the Request for Continued Examination and this Amendment are timely filed.

Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the following amendment and remarks. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 19 of this paper.